



Senator Rosa Franklin
Olympia Office:

312 Legislative Building
PO Box 40429
Olympia, WA 98504-0429
Phone: (360)-786-7656
Fax: (360) 786-7520

E-mail:

Franklin.Rosa@leg.wa.gov

Committees:

- Labor, Commerce, Research & Development, Vice Chair;
- Rules, Vice Chair;
- Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection;
- Health & Long-Term Care

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2005 session promises to be a tough one again as we face a \$1.8 billion short-fall. But we did get some good news right off the bat when Gov. Gregoire announced she would not implement premiums on the low-income families who receive health care through Medicaid. As a result of that and other changes, an estimated 19,000 children across the state will not lose coverage.

But rest assured, we will have to make some tough choices to balance the budget. Even as we struggle with that, my priorities will continue to be:

- **Making health care as affordable as possible for as many people as possible**
- **Continuing improvement in education**
- **Expanding the availability of affordable housing**
- **Increasing opportunities for family wage jobs**

Please call my office if you have any questions, comments or concerns about any of the issues we will face this session! I will be joining Representatives Steve Conway and Steve Kirby at the upcoming town hall meetings. Please plan to attend.

Warm regards,

Rosa Franklin
President Pro Tempore

**Education:
Improving Quality**

Every student deserves access to high-quality programs that help them succeed. What will that mean we need to try to accomplish this session?

- **Ensuring we can recruit and retain good teachers** by funding the voter-approved cost-of-living adjustments;
- **Lowering class sizes** as the voters have asked;



- **Providing enough funding so students can afford** to attend our state's community colleges and universities.

**Health Care: Making it
More Affordable**

- **Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs.** With the cost of prescription drugs digging deeper into everybody's pocket, it's critical that the Legislature make every effort to reduce costs. Among those efforts will be a bill I am sponsoring that could help thousands of uninsured Washington residents obtain less expensive medications at their local pharmacy that are shipped in from Canada.

Senate Democratic Caucus
Web Site: [www.sdc.wa.gov/
Franklin05.htm](http://www.sdc.wa.gov/Franklin05.htm)

State Legislative Web Site:
www.leg.wa.gov

State of Washington Web Site:
www.access.wa.gov

**Senate Ways & Means
Committee:**
[www1.leg.wa.gov/senate/
committees/wm](http://www1.leg.wa.gov/senate/committees/wm) offers excellent
information on the state budget.

More Budget Information:
[www.ofm.wa.gov/news/
snapshot.htm](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/news/snapshot.htm) (Office of
Financial Management)

Toll-Free Legislative Hot Line:
1-800-562-6000

Get a Copy of a Bill

- Download a bill from the Legislature's home page at www.leg.wa.gov on the Internet. Click on "Bill Info."
- Call the Legislative Information Center at (360) 786-7573 and request that the bill be mailed to you.

- **Reducing Health Care Disparities.**
We know that racial and ethnic minorities often receive a lower quality of health care than others. But what can we do about? That's what I am looking at as chair of the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities established last year.

Housing: Increasing Supply

We need to find a way to make the dream of home ownership one that is within the financial grasp of low-

income families throughout the state. Among my efforts will be Senate Bill 5183.

- **Giving Tax Breaks for Affordable Homes.** Under the bill, a sales or use tax exemption is available for materials and labor used to construct low-cost housing sold to low-income buyers. The bill also gives an exemption from the state real estate excise tax to sales of low-cost housing to low-income buyers.

Town Hall Meeting Notice

Please join Rep. Steve Conway, Rep. Steve Kirby and me at our joint Town Hall Meeting

**February 2 at
Bates Technical College
6:30-8:30 p.m.**
1101 South Yakima Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405

**February 17 at
Parkland/Spanaway Library
6:30-8:30 p.m.**
13718 Pacific Ave So., Tacoma, WA 98444

**This is a chance to talk
to us about the critical
issues we will be facing:**

- The State Budget
- Health care
- Elections
- Education
- Affordable Housing

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympia, WA
Permit #133

Town Hall Meeting Notice

Senator Rosa Franklin

312 Legislative Building
PO Box 40429
Olympia, WA 98504-0429

